

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Volksrat, elected during the recent Volkskongress, was received by Marshal Sokolovskii who, in a short speech, outlined the future tasks of the Volksrat. He stated that the most important of these was to propagate the idea of the unity of Germany. He also stated that the Russians would see to it that the powers and duties of the Control Council were transferred to the Volksrat.
 2. Some members of the Volksrat pointed out to the Marshal the difficulties arising in the Russian Zone as a result of measures ordered by the Occupying Power which, to the inhabitants, seemed to be extremely harsh as compared with conditions existing in the western zones. In particular, they pointed out that the food situation in the Russian Zone was just as bad as in the West, and that if western conditions should improve as a result of the Marshall Plan, then the parties in the East would lose all sympathy among the population.
 3. Marshal Sokolovskii replied that the imperialist-capitalist powers and German reactionaries would be surprised at what Russia was in a position to do. The economic reconstruction of Russia, he said, was now so far advanced, that she was in a position to provide food for the Russian Zone; he could already state that in the second half of this year rationing would cease and the German population would be able to buy all necessities without ration cards.
 4. Sokolovskii's statement rejoiced the hearts of the SED members of the Volksrat. The others remained sceptical.

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